(b) whether Government propose to formulate any new norms to check such fatal overloading of trucks in view of the above fact; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The maximum permissible Gross Vehicle Weights (GVWs) for various categories of vehicles have been fixed and notified by Gazette Notification on 18.10.1996 and 26.5.2000 under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. This has been done keeping in view the design parameters and load-bearing capacity of the roads. There are specific provisions in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 which prohibit plying of overloaded vehicles on roads. Enforcement of these provisions vests with the State Governments. No new norms/provisions are considered necessary at this stage.

Proposals under CRF by Orissa

†3325. SHRI SURENDRALATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the proposals sent by Orissa under the Central Road Fund (C.R.F.) during the last three years alongwith the number of proposals that were cleared and the amount released;

(b) whether it is a fact that the utilization certificates for the amount released have been submitted to Government; and

(c) if so, by when the remaining amount would be released?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) During the last three years, 158 proposals were received from the Government of Orissa under the Central Road Fund (CRF) scheme. During this period, 10 proposals have been cleared and funds to the tune of Rs. 77.47 crore have been released.

During the current year, 11 proposals have been cleared. 123 proposals have been returned during the last three years due to limitation of Bank of Sanction as per the guidelines on CRF.

(b) and (c) Overall utilization certificate, as per the CRF guidelines, amounting to Rs. 91.18 crore has been submitted by the Government of Orissa against a total release of Rs. 100.88 crore. Further, a utilization

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

certificate for Rs. 6.67 crore has been received without the supporting details of progress reports. Further release of funds will depend on receipt of these details.

National Highways passing through Punjab

3326. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that traffic on the National Highways passing through Punjab has increased considerably with the result that the Highways have become accident prone; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to widen these Highways under the National Highways Development Project Phase III?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The intensity of traffic on the National Highways has increased in Punjab. The number of accidents has also increased. But the reasons of these accidents cannot be attributed only to increase in traffic in National Highways.

(b) The Government of India has identified for 4 laning of the Jalandhar-Amritsar Road (NH-1), Chandigarh-Ropar-Kiratpur Sahib upto Himachal Border (NH-21) and Ambala-Chandigarh (Punjab portion) (NH-22) under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-lll-A and preparation of Detailed Project Report for Pathankot-Amritsar Road (NH-15) under NHDP lll-B

National Highways passing through Uttar Pradesh

3327. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of National Highways passing through Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the length of each and every National Highways connecting the main cities at the shortest and the longest distance;

(c) whether a large number of these Highways are in a dilapidated conditions and the public has to face **a** lot of difficulty while travelling on these roads; and

(d) the maximum amount to be provided to Uttar Pradesh Government for improvement of the Highways and the roads in the State and by when?